



THE
JEWISH
GAILY

FORWARD

JUNE 1984

SIVAN 5744

Newly Elected Leadership



Front row: Mark Mendelow, Recorder; Don Albert, Vice President; Leila Raim, President; David Stein, Treasurer. Back row: Va'ad members elect Garry Koenigsberg, Sharyn Saslavsky, Alex Ingersoll, Cheryl Orvis and Leslie Bergson. Absent are Jerry Rosenstein (re-elected) and also Allan Berenstein, Ron Lezell and Nancy Meyer who are continuing with the second year of their terms on the Va'ad. The installation of new officers and Va'ad Members will take place on June 29.

PHOTO BY YOLANDE SCHNEEMAN

CSZ Celebrates Shavuot

IT IS A JEWISH TRADITION that on Shavuot, the festival of the giving of the Torah, we study Torah far into the night.

In long standing Sha'ar Zahav tradition, we will hold our second annual Tikkun Shavuot on Tuesday, June 5th, at the synagogue at 7:30 p.m. There will be a short evening service, followed by a dairy potluck, followed by study sessions and discussions. Those of us who attended the Tikkun Shavuot last year learned a lot and had a great time. The potluck is dairy, because dairy foods are traditional for Shavuot. If you want to know why, so ask Aunt Yente. If you have any other questions about the Tikkun Shavuot, please call Leslie at 863-5081.

May 18-May 20 Our Dedication Celebration

THE SUN WAS SHINING BRIGHTLY on the afternoon of May 20 as the corner of Danvers and Caselli gradually filled with the members, friends and guests of Sha'ar Zahav who had come to celebrate the dedication of "A Home of Our Own." The Sunday afternoon ceremony and open house was the culmination of a full weekend of special activities marking the consecration of our Congregation's first synagogue.

The weekend began Friday evening as baskets of flowers were placed around the synagogue and extra seating was added to the sanctuary for all those who had come to worship together in our newly refurbished synagogue. On this special Shabbat, we honored the memory of Mark Feldman, a Va'ad member and former Chair of the Building Committee. The services were led by Leslie Bergson and Eric Keitel in a spirit of joy and celebration, with the participation of many members of the Congregation. That service also saw the debut of the Sha'ar Zahav Ensemble, comprised of Harvey Bartnof, Leslie Bergson, Jonathan Funk, David Gellman, Eric Keitel, Ron Lezell, Cheryl Orvis, Jill Rose and Talia Shafir. The Oneg which followed was sponsored by Don Albert in honor of the Building Steering Committee, all the campaign workers and the current Building Committee.

Saturday morning held special meaning for Sha'ar Zahav as our new Saturday morning prayerbook was inaugurated in a Shabbat Morning Service. Garry Koenigsberg and Terry Rothchild led a beautiful service and Torah reading. Members of the Congregation were honored with *alliyot* and participation in the service. Saturday afternoon was a time to rest and reflect on our Congregation, its accomplishments and its goals.

As evening approached, members and friends prepared for the party that night. Olive Oil's on Pier 50 was the site for a festive evening of food, spirits and dancing to the music of Frantix — all organized by Alita Rosenfeld and her committee. Mike Rankin, President of the Congregation, took the opportunity to say special thanks to Don Albert, Irene Ogus and Ron Lezell for their key roles in the Building Campaign. The event was well attended, with

(continued on page 4)

Mike's Last Column

Waddayah mean I can't be president any more after July 1st! Just because I didn't run again, just because almost everyone in the Congregation, including me, voted for Leila, I have to give up all the power and glory?

No more to chair a Va'ad meeting? No more to look around the table at those eager faces, ready to cater to my every whim, to vote unanimously in favor of my every proposal??

Oh, *Ars Gratia Artis*, or whatever the Latin phrase is that refers to the transient nature of power!

Well, if that's what it says in the By Laws, come July 1st I'll just fade away I guess.

(Heh! Heh! Heh!)

It's been real, friends, a more important part of my life than you can imagine. Sometimes it was great fun, sometimes it wasn't. But I step down more convinced than ever of the specialness of what we've created together in Sha'ar Zahav. We've all tried, since the Congregation was founded, to make of this synagogue both a launching pad for social action, and a quiet place where we can retreat to do a little healing. I believe we've succeeded more than most of us thought possible.

The Jewish Gaily *Forward* is published 12 times annually by Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, (415) 861-6932. Permission to reproduce non-copyrighted material is freely given, credit would be appreciated.

All newsletter copy should be typed, double-spaced and is due on the 10th of the month. It should be sent to the Synagogue office, marked to the attention of the *Forward*.

Members of the Newsletter Committee are Alex Ingersoll, Bob Goldware, Irene Ogus, Marilyn O'Keefe and Leila Raim (editorial and production), Allan Berenstein, Frank Hyman, David Shaber, Barry Siegel, Sam Thal and Alita Rosenfeld (distribution). The *Forward* is typeset by Cole Valley Graphics and printed by Lou Greene.

Display Ads are \$15 per column inch for non-members and \$10 per column inch for members, with a frequency discount of 10% for six or more issues. Ads should be camera ready; any ads that require typesetting, camera and/or artwork will be subject to a one-time production charge.

Classified Ads (for members only) are \$5.00 for up to 20 words, plus \$1.00 for each 10 additional words.

Payment must accompany ad and should be sent to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, marked attention *Forward* advertising. The advertising deadline is the 10th of the month. The *Forward* reserves the right to reject any ad for reasons of taste. For more information on advertising rates and charges, call the Synagogue Office at 861-6932.

There are times of friction, times when we aren't as gentle with each other as we need to be. Sometimes we argue because we care so much for the cause we are defending, sometimes because we are just ornery and insensitive. Tough as it is to make it go, we really are committed to the democratic process. It's unwieldy; sometimes it seems to lead to chaos. But it's the best way, and in my opinion, the only way.

We're lucky to have a Congregation as strong and stable and solid as Sha'ar Zahav. I think that with that good fortune comes the responsibility to look after those who are not so blessed. That includes other Jews, but not exclusively; other gay men and lesbian women, but not exclusively. The impact of our Congregation goes far beyond the parochial concerns of one small synagogue. May we always be involved in the mending of the wider world, while we take care of our own at home.

It's traditional in the last column to thank all of you for what you've done for the Congregation during the past year. I won't do that here. Inevitably I'd forget someone, and besides I'd rather do it in person. At the last service in June, the 29th, when we officially welcome the new officers and Va'ad, there will be a time for public thanks to the many who did such splendid work, who gave so much of their time and talent and energy.

Not then, any more than now, will I be able to find the words to express my appreciation to those of you who sought me out in the tough times, to offer a hand of friendship, a supportive word, a good joke or a hug.

Folks, our Congregation is in good hands. The new leadership won't be exactly like those it replaces, any more than we were like those we succeeded. But it will be good. And the Congregation will prosper and grow, and have great successes, and make mistakes, and learn from them.

Next year Leila will be writing this column, and she will be as proud as I am of who we are and how far we've come. May she, may all of us, only go from strength to strength!

I really don't get to chair the July Va'ad meeting, huh?

Oh shucks.

(Heh, heh, heh!!!)

B'Shalom,

— Mike

New Members

The Membership Committee is pleased to announce the names of four new members who joined our Congregation in May. A warm welcome to:

Benjamin Shalit
Chaya Spector
Maryanne Sussman
Susan Unger

New members are welcomed and honored at Friday night services on the last Friday of the month. By making them feel a part of our family, we can all help to show our new members that they have a valuable place at Sha'ar Zahav.

Congregational Meeting

THE SEMI-ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING was held on Sunday, May 6 at the Synagogue. Approximately 40 people attended, and heard various reports from the Officers and Committee Chairs of the Congregation. Highlights of the meeting were as follows:

- David Stein, Treasurer, reported that we should end up this fiscal year (6/30/84) a few thousand dollars in the black.
- The budget for fiscal year 1984-85 was approved. The budget calls for \$62,100 in revenues for the coming year.
- The Rabbi Search Committee has begun to interview candidates. The first candidate visited us May 10-May 12, and there is a probability of another interview coming up sometimes in the next month.
- Elections for Officers and the Va'ad were held with the following results:

President: Leila Raim

Vice-President: Don Albert

Recorder: Mark Mendelow

Treasurer: David Stein

Va'ad (2 year terms): Leslie Bergson
Alex Ingersoll
Cheryl Orvis
Jerry Rosenstein
Sharyn Saslafsky

(1 year term): Garry Koenigsberg

Congratulations to all of the officers and newly elected Va'ad members. The official installation will take place on June 29 at Shabbat services.

For those members who attended the meeting, there was a definite feeling of pride in our Congregation. We have had a very good six months, and a very good year. Under the capable leadership of our new officers and Board of Directors, and with the loyalty and dedication of our membership, this next year should prove to be every bit as exciting and worthwhile as this one. May we continue to grow in strength from one year to the next!

— Eric Keitel, Recorder

Synagogue as a Community Resource

We've always intended that our synagogue should be available to the whole community, as well as a "Home of Our Own" for the Congregation.

That expectation became a reality in mid-March when a group of disabled veterans (and counseling staff) began using the oneg room for a rap group on alternate Friday afternoons. Since these veterans live on marginal incomes, mostly in Tenderloin hotels or board and care homes, they are not charged for the use of the space.

The synagogue is available for rental to appropriate groups, however. Anyone who is interested should contact the Building Committee chair, David Gellman, at 861-6932.

Rabbi Search Committee

Interviews Continue in June

THE RABBI SEARCH COMMITTEE is pleased to announce that our second candidate will be here for interviews beginning June 14. He will be attending Shabbat Services on June 15 and will be happy to meet and chat with members of the Congregation at the Oneg. We hope many of you will be there.

In May, we conducted our first interview sessions with a candidate for our pulpit. Many members took advantage of the opportunity to meet and socialize with him during and after the Oneg on May 11. The Committee is evaluating the results of our interviews with him and the responses we received from members of the Congregation.

Having reached the stage of interviews, the Committee is pleased to see that all the months of preparation appear to have been worth it. All the background work we did to develop our Congregational and job descriptions, to evaluate the myriad input from members of Sha'ar Zahav, and the extensive interview protocol we developed appear to be serving us well in the task we have been given. We greatly appreciate the support of the Congregation and the Va'ad in this task, and we look forward with enthusiasm to pursuing the task to successful completion — but, please remember that we have no prescribed timetable; the task will be accorded all the time it needs.

Holocaust Library

As part of our commemoration of Yom Hashoah, the Congregation made a \$150 donation to the Holocaust Library and Research Center in San Francisco. We received the following letter of acknowledgement.

David Stein, Treasurer
Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

I wanted to thank you personally for the contribution of your congregation and recognition of our work. Memorial book plates in memory of "The gays and lesbians who were persecuted and murdered during the years of the Holocaust" have been placed in The Men with the Pink Triangle by Heinz Heger and The Homosexual Emancipation Movement in Germany by James D. Steakley. We also have a copy of The Nazi Extermination of Homosexuals by Frank Rector, donated to the HLRC in memory of Harvey Milk.

One way to keep the memory of the gay and lesbian victims of the Holocaust alive is to make information about their fate available. We would appreciate learning of any other publications, films or other information on this subject that come to your attention; we will then make every effort to secure copies and make them available to the community.

Sincerely,
Joel Neuberg
Executive Director,
The Holocaust Library and Research Center of San Francisco

Dedication Ceremony (continued from page 1)

dancing and socializing going on into the early morning hours.

As Sunday arrived, the activity back at the corner of Danvers and Caselli increased. The street was blocked off, a speakers' platform constructed and a sound system installed. By 1:30 p.m., Frank Hyman and David Gellman had finished all the physical preparations for the ceremony and Talia Shafir had completed the last run-through of the program. Everything was ready for the formal dedication program to begin.

The program began with a moving invocation and greetings by Rabbi Morris Hershman, Regional Director of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. Next was the sound of gentle hammering as a mezuzah was affixed to the exterior doorpost by Daniel Chesir, Co-Founder of Sha'ar Zahav, and Cheryl Orvis, Immediate Past President. Leslie Bergson chanted the blessing and then led the assembly in a heartfelt *shehechianu*, which was followed by a beautiful rendition of *Shalom Aleichem* by the Sha'ar Zahav Ensemble.

As the opening portion of the program drew to a close, Mike Rankin came to the microphone to welcome all those attending. In his remarks, Mike extended thanks to many of those who had helped make the day possible and spoke about the meaning of our congregation and the role a permanent home has for us. He then introduced Bill Kraus, who expressed Sala Burton's regrets at not being able to fly west to join with us and paraphrased the statement which she had earlier read into the Congressional Record to mark Sha'ar Zahav's accomplishments.

The Hallel Brothers — Harvey Bartnof, Jonathan Funk and Eric Keitel — then provided a brief musical interlude with their rendition of Safam's *Just Another Foreigner*.

State Senator Milton Marks came to the stage to offer greetings and congratulations to our Congregation and to read a special passage for our dedication.

Don Albert, Chair of the Building Steering Committee, acknowledged the efforts of those who contributed and worked so hard to help us have our first "Home of Our Own." He also recalled the sequence of events which led to the search for and approval and acquisition of the building. Finally, Don highlighted parts of the dedication booklet and dedicatory plaques prepared for the occasion.

Talia Shafir came to the podium and lifted our spirits even higher with a beautiful rendition of Holly Near's *Mountain Song*.

Mike next introduced Supervisor Carol Ruth Silver, long-time friend of the Congregation. With Supervisor Louise Renne, she presented a Certificate of Honor to the Congregation from the Board of Supervisors. Alan Lubliner, as representative of Mayor Dianne Feinstein, then read a proclamation from the Mayor issued in honor of our dedication.

Then followed perhaps the most moving part of the afternoon as David Stein initiated a shofar blast which was answered by Leila Raim with an even longer blast from the top of the hill. Fundraising Chair Irene Ogus then led the other members of the Building Steering Committee in a Torah procession down Caselli Avenue to the stage, with the Sha'ar Zahav Ensemble providing the musical

background. As the procession proceeded down the hill, the singing of the crowd became more and more joyous. The Torah circled the congregation until coming to rest under a large wool tallis canopy, as all present linked arms for our traditional singing of *Oseh Shalom*.

Mike Rankin concluded the formal program by inviting all to visit the building and join in the reception set up on Danvers Street.

* * *

Special thanks go to the following committees and their members for bringing this weekend together:

Dedication Committee: Talia Shafir, Frank Hyman and Mike Zimmerman, Co-Chairs; with Alita Rosenfeld and Don Albert.

Commemorations Committee: Daniel Chesir, Alex Ingersoll, Eric Keitel and Ron Lezell, with thanks to Marilyn O'Keefe for her work on the commemorative booklet.

Building Committee: David Gellman, Chair; with Joan Blazewick, Garry Koenigsberg, Mike Rankin, Yo Schneeman, David Shaber and David Stein.

Ritual Committee: Leslie Bergson, Chair; with Daniel Chesir, Jonathan Funk, Steve Greenberg, Eric Keitel, Garry Koenigsberg and Terry Rothchild.

Oneg Committee: Larry Cohen, Chair, with Bill Ashley-Dobbin, Lenny Brill, Michael Chriesman, Jonathan G., Ron Moscovitz, Art Reichstadt and Elliott Toporek.

Monitors organized by David Gass, with Rick Allen, Michael Barclay, Steve Elman, Ralph Frischman and Mark Mendelow.

* * *

One final note: If this report was not sufficiently descriptive, rest assured, Rob Tat arranged for the ceremony to be videotaped. Watch the July issue of the *Forward* for details of CSZ's Dedication — the Video.

Membership Picnic

SAVE SUNDAY, JUNE 3, on your calendars for the CSZ Membership Picnic. The Membership Committee is sponsoring this event for old members, new members, potential members, friends, and guests. It will take place at the Pioneer Log Cabin Picnic Area in Golden Gate Park beginning at 11:00 a.m. and will feature food, games, and, God willing, outstanding weather. Everyone is encouraged to come and bring at least one potential new member! If you would like further information, contact Allan Berenstein at 550-7355 or any member of the Membership Committee.

EBLB for June

The next meeting of the East Bay Lunch Bunch will be on Tuesday, June 26, at 12:30 p.m. We will meet at Quoc Te, a new Vietnamese restaurant at 850 Broadway, between 8th and 9th Streets. Specialties include phuc vu and pho bo. See you there. For more information, call Lennie Brill at 451-1850 (days).

Shavuot: The Offer Israel Could Not Refuse

THE MEDRASH TELLS US that when God decided to give the Torah to the world, Jews were not the first choice as recipients. Like any author, God wanted the widest possible circulation for the new volume, and searched for the most powerful literary agent. Accordingly, God first approached the Roman Empire.

"Will you accept My Torah?" God asked. "It depends," said the Romans. "What does it say?" "Well, among other things, it says, 'Do not murder.'" The Romans laughed. "How could we possibly accept such a book? We live by murder, which we call glorious battle. If we stopped murdering, there would be no glory of Rome for anyone to remember."

God turned next to the Babylonians. "Will you accept My Torah?" "What is in it?" "It says, 'You shall not steal.'" "How could we accept that? Our prosperity is based upon stealing from peasants, workers and slaves, which we call commerce. Find someone else to receive your Torah!"

So, one by one, the nations of the world were offered the Torah, and one by one, they rejected it. (In what amounts to the first ethnic joke, the medrash describes, in loving detail, which immorality each other nation would not give up.) Finally, no one was left but the tiny nation of Israel, encamped at Sinai.

Now as the medrash points out, the Bible's description of Israel at Sinai is rather strange. We are told, "Israel encamped there beneath the mountain." (Ex. 19:2) How could they be "beneath" the mountain? The medrash explains: God, having been turned down by every other nation, was taking no chances with Israel. Plucking up Sinai in one hand, God held it above the Jews, while casually asking, "Would you like to receive My Torah?" Israel, looking up at hundreds of tons of rock suspended over their heads, decided quickly. "O, yes, God, the Torah is just what we've always wanted. Do You think You could put the mountain down now?" So Israel, blessed among all the nations, received the Torah.

One can suspect that the medrash is less than absolutely serious in passing on this story. And yet the story does have a serious undertone. The giant nations like Babylon and Assyria which did not receive the Torah: What has become of them? Their thoughts and hopes are pickings for archeologists, scattered like sad slivers of pottery in the wasteland. Their peoples long ago melted into other nations; their languages are dead, their stories ended.

This is the tale of all the ancient mid-eastern nations, all but one. The Hittites, the Philistines, the Moabites, the Chaldeans, the Phoenicians — what remains of them? Yet one nation from that time, one of the smallest, one of the most persecuted, one scattered time and again from its home: That one small nation somehow survives. And the only distinction between it and its vanished neighbors is that that nation carries with it a remarkable set of writing it calls the Torah.

That Shavuot day at Sinai, when Israel chose to accept the Torah, perhaps a mountain did hang perilously over our heads: A mountain of oblivion, the crushing weight of time. It has shattered and destroyed all the peoples around

us, but Israel somehow survives. When we celebrate the gift of the Torah on Shavuot, we celebrate the spiritual basis — the only basis — for our national survival.

The story must not be misinterpreted. The Torah is not a magic talisman that insures our survival if we carry it around the synagogue once a year. It is instead a contract, or perhaps a challenge, between God and Israel. Our part is to be witnesses to the necessity for justice and kindness in human action. We are not the only such witnesses in the world, nor the only instruments of God's teaching; and sometimes our deeds fail to communicate the message we hold in trust. Yet our continuing responsibility has never been greater.

Hillel said: "The more Torah, the more life; the more communication, the more understanding; the more justice, the more peace." Just as there can be no peace without justice, and no understanding without communication, life itself cannot continue without Torah, without the acceptance of compassion and decency as an inalterable part of human affairs. Look up, *chaveirai*. That's a big mountain up there.

— Garry Koenigsberg

Israel Independence Day

SUNDAY, MAY 13 MARKED THE 36TH ANNIVERSARY of the establishment of the State of Israel, and Congregation Sha'ar Zahav joined many other Jewish groups in the Bay Area at the annual Israel Independence Day Celebration at Stern Grove.

Our beautiful booth was a standout, and many people at the fair came by to say hello and inquire about our congregation. Several people congratulated us on our new building, and wished us continued mazel. Our membership materials and monthly newsletter were distributed to those who desired them, and our mailing list was also out on the table. Several interesting conversations took place with non-gay members of the Jewish community who asked many questions about our involvement in the Jewish community at large, and how we "saw ourselves" in relation to them. The vast majority of comments that the volunteers at our booth heard were positive.

In addition to letting people know that Congregation Sha'ar Zahav exists, we also used the opportunity for fundraising, with very positive results. Through the sale of T-shirts and related imprinted sportswear (provided by Cheryl Orvis and Aaron Cooper), we raised over \$175.00 for the Congregation. This was an added plus to an already wonderful event. Many thanks to the following people who helped make this day a success for us: Eric Keitel, coordinator of the event; Joan Blazewick, for use of her van for transporting our booth and materials; and the rest of the crew who helped staff the booth, Aaron Cooper, Steve Cronenwalt and Cheryl Orvis.

Contributions

Sha'ar Zahav welcomes all contributions, of all sizes, to mark any event, and to any of our funds. Contributions will be acknowledged in the *Forward* unless requested otherwise.

Donations were made to Sha'ar Zahav's funds in the past month by the following contributors:

For the General Fund —

Seth Shapiro, in memory of his brother, Marc Shapiro

Mark Mendelow, in honor of the birth of Michael H. Dunne

Robert Goldware

Jonathan Funk, in honor of Paul Fishman's graduation from medical school

Robert Gross, in honor of the naming of his niece, Sophie Tovina

Cheryl Orvis, in honor of Mark Mendelow's new practice

Duff B. Kreitzberg, Lea Kreitzberg & Nele Kreitzberg

Rand, in loving memory of Herman Kreitzberg

Leslie Bergson, in memory of William Andisman

Suzanne Case & Naomi Fine, in memory of Margo Feliz

Harold Bloom, in honor of Nanci Stern's birthday

For the Building Fund (general) —

John Golebowski

Michael Chriesman

Pauline & Albert Stein, in honor of the Congregation

Thomas W. Glynn, in memory of Lisa Ann Comer

For the Building Fund, in memory of Ted Mendonca —

Merle & Bill Benkavitch

Commonwealth Club

Robert Dalterio

Vickie Blomquist

Aika Hironaka

Marcee Murphree

Gloodroe Hoks

Thomas W. Glynn

Robert K. Short

Virginia Patterson

Leilani Lewis

Philip M. Plant

Joan Graham

Renee Rubin

Margot Plant

Barbara Christee

John & Elizabeth Darr

Bonnie Fisk-Hayden

For the Prayerbook Fund —

James Dobkins

Congregational By-Laws Available

Any member of the Congregation may obtain a copy of our By-Laws by making a request through the office.

Va'ad Report

MOST OF THE DISCUSSION at the May 14 Va'ad meeting centered around the upcoming dedication weekend festivities. The Va'ad was pleased that the Building Committee had completed all scheduled work on the building in time for the weekend. The Membership Committee presented five new candidates for membership, who were approved unanimously.

Other items discussed during the meeting included: new policies for maintaining the newsletter mailing lists; report from Rabbi Search concerning the upcoming interview with a second candidate June 14-17; formulation of a Kashrut policy for the synagogue, which was referred to the June Va'ad meeting for further discussion; and whether to display the American and Israeli flags in the sanctuary, which was also tabled until the next Va'ad meeting.

It was decided that the synagogue will be represented at the annual World Congress of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations by Aaron Cooper and Eric Keitel. The Va'ad also heard reports on recent synagogue activities, including Pesach and Israel Independence Day.

For those of you who have never attended a Va'ad meeting, it is an excellent way of finding out what is happening in the Congregation — even before it happens! Meetings are held on the second Monday of each month, at the Synagogue, at 6:30 p.m. Please join us and become involved! Until next month....

— Eric Keitel, Recorder

Gay?

Jewish?

Not a member of Sha'ar Zahav?

A SCHANDE!

Treasures of Danzig

A couple of months ago, we sent everyone to visit the Magnes Museum in Berkeley. This month it's the University Art Museum at U.C. Berkeley, where an exhibition entitled "Danzig 1939: Treasures of a Destroyed Community" will run through July 8. This exhibition should be of particular interest since it focuses on Jewish ceremonial objects from the Great Synagogue and Jewish cemetery in Danzig which were shipped to New York for safekeeping just one month before the German army marched into that city. The exhibition will be augmented by several lectures and films at the Museum. For further information, call 642-1438 (or 642-1412 regarding films).

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Sivan 1 Rosh Chodesh	2 2
3 3 Membership Picnic-Golden Gate Park	4 4	5 5 Erev Shavuot Tikkun Shavuot 7:30 Dairy Potluck	6 6 1st Day Shavuot Education Comm. 7pm	7 7 2nd Day Shavuot Building Comm. 6:30pm	8 8	9 9
10 10 Newsletter Deadline	11 11 Va'ad Meeting 6:30pm	12 12	13 13 Newsletter Comm. 648-4818	14 14 Social Action Comm. 647-4050	15 15	16 16
17 17	18 18	19 19	20 20	21 21 Building Comm. 6:30pm	22 22	23 23
24 24 Gay/Lesbian Freedom Day Parade	25 25	26 26 East Bay Lunch Bunch-Lenny at 451-1850	27 27 Newsletter Mailing 648-4818	28 28 Ritual Comm. 6:30pm 631 O'Farrell, Fl.2	29 29 Installation of Officers	30 30

Ritual Calendar — June

Friday June 1
Parshah: Naso, Num. 4:21-7:89
Haftarah: Judges 13:2-25
 Leslie Bergson and Marc Lipshutz, Services

Tuesday June 5
Tikkun Shavuot, 7:30 p.m.
 Ritual Committee and Friends

Friday June 8
Parshah: Be-Ha'alotkha, Num. 8:1-12:16
Haftarah: Zechariah 2:14-4:7
 Garry Koenigsberg, Services
 Shavuot will be observed this evening, the Torah will be read, and a Yizkor service will be held.

Friday June 15
Parshah: Shelach Lecha, Num. 13:1-15:41
Haftarah: Joshua 2:1-24
 Aaron Cooper and Eric Keitel, Services

Friday June 22
Parshah: Korah, Num. 16:1-18:32
Haftarah: I Samuel 11:14-12:22
 Mike Rankin, Services

Friday June 29
Shabbat Rosh Chodesh
Parshah: Hukkat, Num. 19:1-22:1
Special Parshah: Num. 28:9-15
Special Haftarah: Isaiah 66:1-24
 Steve Elman, Services

Ritual Preview — July

Friday July 6
Parshah: Balak, Num. 22:2-25:9
Haftarah: Micah 5:6-6:8
 Steve Greenberg, Services

Services are held every Friday night at 8:15 at our new home, located at 220 Danvers at Caselli in San Francisco.

So Ask Aunt Yente

Dear Aunt Yente,

How do you make knishes?

Hungry in the Haight

Dear Hungry,

You should know that Aunt Yente writes a religious column, not a cooking column. So instead of a recipe, she should tell you that on Shavous we eat knishes and blintzes and other dairy foods to celebrate the "land of milk and honey" the Torah speaks of. But — oy! — Aunt Yente can't stand to see anyone hungry, so if you promise not to tell anyone else, and to save some for her, Aunt Yente will just this once make an exception, and share

Aunt Yente's Famous Knish Recipe

First, remember that all these amounts are approximate; taste as you go along, and get fat like me.

All in all, you'll need 3 large onions, 1/2 lb. butter, a cup milk, some yeast, a little sugar, 2 or 3 eggs, flour, a cup kasha, 3 large potatoes, 1/2 bunch scallions, a pound dry cottage cheese, water, salt, and love.

Early Shavous morning, cut up 3 onions, put in a heavy skillet with 1/4 pound butter on a low light. Stir it occasionally, and cook until caramel colored (about an hour).

Meanwhile, make your dough. First, grease a bowl and set it aside. In a little cup, mix a package of yeast, 1/4 cup warm water, a little sugar; let it sit and get bubbly.

Scald a cup milk and melt in 1/4 pound butter; let it cool a little. Add one or two eggs, 7/8 cup warm water, 1-1/4 tablespoons salt. If it tastes good, put it into a mixing bowl, and add to liquid 3 cups of flour and the yeast mixture; stir until big lumps are gone.

Add gradually *about* 4 cups flour. Here is tricky. If there's too little flour, the dough will be too sticky to knead, but for the very best knishes, you don't want too much flour or they will be a little hard. Add flour so the dough is mildly sticky when you start kneading; it will get less so as you knead.

So knead the dough for ten minutes. Put into the greased bowl, then turn it upside down (so now the top is greased). Cover with

a towel and put in a warm place until it has doubled in bulk. Then punch down, and let rise until back to double.

While the dough is rising, make your fillings.

Cook three large potatoes; mash. Add salt and about 1/2 the onions, to taste (how much you taste Aunt Yente will not look). The daring may add a dash of pepper.

Put a cup of kasha into two cups boiling, salted water. Lower light. Cover, stir once, cook until done. (No, of course you don't normally make kasha this way, but here you *want* it to stick together.) Mix with salt and onions as above.

Get a pound dry cottage cheese (Safeway sells it); mix in one egg, a little flour, and a chopped half-bunch of scallions (you should excuse Aunt Yente, who tries very hard at being Californian; a half-bunch green onions).

So. Your dough is risen. Preheat oven to 410°. Roll dough out thin, (1/4" or less) and cut into squares or circles. Put a spoonful of filling on each piece dough. (What size spoonful? Big enough to fill your knish!) Fold the dough either all up to the center, or over in half, and seal the edges carefully. Put on a cookie sheet. If you have any energy left, brush lightly with melted butter. Cover with a towel, and let rise until you can see that they've risen. Bake until brown. Cool. If Aunt Yente need to tell you what to do now, we're both in trouble.

As the Psalmist says (Aunt Yente isn't saying which psalmist):

Take away your fancy dishes;

Bring me a plate with knishes!

Don't forget the sour cream, and have a very happy Shavous!

Aunt Yente

Aunt Yente will answer all your questions about Jewish law and ritual matters. Just write to Aunt Yente in care of the *Forward*, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, CA 94114. Only a limited number of questions can be answered in the *Forward*, so if you want a personal answer, please include a stamped self-addressed envelope. All material © 1984 Congregation Sha'ar Zahav.

Dedication Greetings

IN ADDITION TO THE OFFICIAL PROCLAMATIONS and greetings which were part of the Dedication Program on May 20, we received many letters and expressions of congratulations on our dedication. Most of these have been included in a dedication book compiled by Mike Rankin, which is on the back membership table for everyone to enjoy. Included in this book are congratulatory letters or telegrams from the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (New York and SF offices), Beth Chayim Chadashim (LA), Congregation Bnei Emunah (SF), Peninsula Temple Beth El (San Mateo), Golden Gate Business Association, Metropolitan Community Church (SF) and from Supervisors Maher and Walker. In addition, we received flowers from Bay Area Physicians for Human Rights and Congregation Ahavat Shalom.

Of the many personal letters we received, Mike chose a particularly moving one to read on Sunday. This letter from a long-time friend of the Congregation is reprinted here.

*The President,
Congregation & Visitors
Sha'ar Zahav*

I would like to extend to all of you congratulations on the dedication of your new synagogue from your gay Jewish brothers and sisters from down under in Australia.

I am sorry I can't join you in your dedication celebrations & wonder if your congregants realise that they carry the hopes & aspirations of gay Jews from around the world & that for many, even people like myself who live in a large gay city like Sydney, the desire to pray within the context of a gay synagogue is but a dream that will, in all probability, never be realised.

I hope the dedication is all that you hoped & planned for (including the weather) & know that what you have achieved will remain long after we will, and that your efforts have resulted in a lasting memorial to all gays and one in which we as Jews can come openly & pray.

I look forward to the day when I can join you in your new home
Shalom,
Ray Israel
Sydney, Australia

The Mayor's Proclamation

THE FOLLOWING PROCLAMATION was presented by Mayor Feinstein's representative, Congregation member Alan Lubliner, to Mike Rankin at the Dedication Ceremony on May 20. The proclamation is now hanging in our synagogue along with the Certificate of Honor presented by the Board of Supervisors.

WHEREAS: CONGREGATION SHA'AR ZAHAV, which was founded in 1977 by members of the San Francisco gay and lesbian Jewish community and which serves our City's young and old, gay and non-gay, is holding the official dedication of its first permanent synagogue here in our City on May 20, 1984; and

WHEREAS: CONGREGATION SHA'AR ZAHAV serves as a sanctuary for spiritual and social needs in our community, provides a vital support network for its members, and offers community celebrations for such traditional holidays as Rosh Hashanah, Chanukah, Purim, and Passover; and

WHEREAS: CONGREGATION SHA'AR ZAHAV also plays an active and important role in local community affairs — including those relating to senior citizens, AIDS awareness, Israel Independence Day, the Holocaust Memorial Library of the Bay Area, Ethiopian and Soviet Jewry, the Jewish Welfare Federation and other worthy programs; and

WHEREAS: San Francisco is proud to recognize and to congratulate the members of CONGREGATION SHA'AR ZAHAV on its many distinguished achievements, and to convey our appreciation for the dynamic role it plays in our City's spiritual life; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT I, Dianne Feinstein, Mayor of the City and County of San Francisco, do hereby convey our heartfelt Congratulations and very Best Wishes to everyone involved in the creation of CONGREGATION SHA'AR ZAHAV's new home and do wish its members every possible success in the years to come.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City and County of San Francisco to be affixed this twenty-third day of April, nineteen hundred and eighty-four.

Dianne Feinstein
Mayor

Everyone Loves a Parade!

It's June, so it just must be Parade Time — time for the annual Gay and Lesbian Freedom Day Parade, that is — and Sha'ar Zahav will be there. On Sunday, June 24, we hope to have a sizable contingent marching under our banner, with stirring singing led by Steve Greenberg. We will also have an information and knish-aid booth in the Civic Center, organized by Allyce Kimerling. If you would like to help with the planning, please contact Allyce at 863-8796. If you can't help in advance, just plan to be there — to march, and to help administer knishes back at the booth!

Congressional Record

IN HONOR OF OUR DEDICATION, the following statement was read into the Congressional Record of the 98th Congress, Second Session, House of Representatives, by the Honorable Sala Burton on Tuesday, May 8, 1984 (Vol. 130, No. 58).

Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, May 20, 1984, Congregation Sha'ar Zahav of San Francisco will have a very special celebration.

The celebration will mark the conclusion of a weekend of dedication of the congregation's first permanent synagogue. It represents a great triumph for the your congregation as well as an appropriate moment to reflect on its many services and accomplishments.

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav was founded in 1977 and has grown to more than 200 members. It was established for a very special reason — to respond to the needs of San Francisco's large lesbian and gay Jewish population.

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav became a member of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations in 1982. Its High Holy Day services are attended by over 1,000 people, and it is actively involved not only in the gay community but also with senior citizens, the Jewish Welfare Federation, Israel Independence Day, and on behalf of oppressed Ethiopian and Soviet Jewry.

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav reflects the pride and sense of accomplishment of its members, and it continues and reaffirms a long tradition of social concern.

We in San Francisco are proud of Sha'ar Zahav.

Last year I had the privilege of joining hundreds of others at the congregation's high holy day services. I was deeply moved at the beauty and sincerity of the service, which members of the congregation had developed as a blend of traditional Jewish liturgy with new material designed to reflect the realities of their lives.

My experience at this service crystalized my belief that Congregation Sha'ar Zahav represents more than a welcome and needed center for gay and lesbian Jews; it represents the finest traditions of community pride in diversity, of caring and social concern, and of building on what is best in the old to create something new — of the city which I am proud to represent in this Congress.

On behalf of all San Franciscans, I offer my heartfelt congratulations and my best wishes to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav on the occasion of dedicating a home of its own.

ATTORNEY

DAVID R. GELLMAN
(415) 621-2966

- Contracts & Leases
- Estate Planning & Wills
- Real Estate
- Business Law & Litigation

45 Franklin St., San Francisco 94102

Reasonable Fees

Weekend & Evening
Appointments

June Yahrzeits

- 1 Abraham Vogel, Father of Lee Vogel
- 2 Margaret Staub, Grandmother of Wendy Weiss
- 3 (3 Sivan) Tewel Buchholz, Father of Joe Buchholz
- 4 Claude Wybrecht, Lover of Ralph Vissell
- 9 Herman H. Siegel, Father of Barry Siegel
- 10 Don Raymond Bell, Lover of Richard Bornstein and Friend of Louis Bornstein
- 10 (10 Sivan) David Radovsky, Grandfather of Laurie Radovsky
- 13 (13 Sivan) Rebecca Blossom Bornstein, Mother of Lois Bornstein and Grandmother of Richard Bornstein
- 19 Henriette Kahn Wildberg, Grandmother of Judy Macks
- 21 Virginia Anne Corman, Mother of Tanyan Corman
- 21 Donald E. Jones, Father of Donald Jones
- 22 Dorothy Abraham Weiss, Stepmother of Wendy Weiss
- 22 Irving Wildberg, Grandfather of Judy Macks
- 25 Pauline Lillian Weill, Grandmother of Jill Rose
- 27 (27 Sivan) Perel Berenstein, Grandmother of Allan Berenstein
- 29 (29 Sivan) Jay Cohen, Brother of Herbert S. Cohen
- 30 Thomas Tannenhaus, Cousin of Judah Katz

Note: Yahrzeits will be read at services on the Friday preceding the Yahrzeit date.

June Birthdays!

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| 2 Nina Wouk | 10 Daniel Chesir |
| 2 Joanne Woolf | 10 Paul G. |
| 3 David Hyman | 16 Mike Freedland |
| 4 Steven Rosenberg | 23 Steve Klein |
| 7 Ailsa Steckel | 26 Marc Lipschutz |
| 8 Norma Burns | 28 Cynthia Schorr |
| 9 Allyce Kimerling | 29 Jay Feinstein |
| 9 Minette Miller | |

Oneg Sponsors

During the month of April, Friday night Onegs were sponsored by the following generous persons:

- Apr. 6 — The Va'ad, in honor of the Congregation
- Apr. 13 — David Stein & Alex Ingersoll, in honor of the visit of their parents, Pauline & Albert Stein
- Apr. 20 — Ralph Gross, in memory of his father and in honor of his niece, Sophie Tovina, and Carol & Lynn
- Apr. 27 — Leslie Bergson, in honor of Nanci Stern's birthday

All you have to do to sponsor an Oneg is to think of the occasion and contact Larry Cohen at an Oneg or call him at 493-0535 or leave a message at the Synagogue office (861-6932). The cost of sponsoring an Oneg is \$30-40 (partial sponsorship available) or you can also provide the food, flowers, etc. for a more personal touch.

Remember to keep us up to date. If you've moved, changed your name, have a new phone number or job, or wish to add a listing to our yahrzeit or anniversary records, please call or write the synagogue office.

Classified Ads

LESBIAN PARENTS: Lesbian researcher interested in talking with you and your 3 or 4 year old child for doctoral study. All info will be kept confidential. Contact: Ailsa Steckel (415) 824-3616.

GUITAR LESSONS: Learn to play what you hear around you and inside you. Learn songs, music theory and improvisation — painlessly. All levels. Have fun! I love to teach! Suzanne P. Shanbaum, 261-0791.

FOR SALE: Double bed (no frame), \$75 or best offer. Call Yo Schneeman, 878-5197.



CONGREGATION SHA'AR ZAHAV
220 Danvers at Caselli
San Francisco, California 94114
(415) 861-6932

Officers: President, Mike Rankin; Treasurer, David Stein; Recorder, Eric Keitel

Va'ad (Board) Members: Don Albert, Allan Berenstein, Alex Ingersoll, Ron Lezell, Mark Mendelow, Nancy Meyer, Leila Raim, Jerry Rosenstein, Sharyn Saslafsky

Committee Chairs: Bikur Cholim, Rabbi Ben Marcus; Building, David Gellman; Bylaws, David Gass; Education, Joanne Woolf; Elections, Betty Kalis; Finance, Tom Rothgiesser; Membership, Allan Berenstein; Newsletter, Alex Ingersoll; Oneg, Larry Cohen; Public Relations, Sharyn Saslafsky; Rabbi Search, Aaron Cooper/Leila Raim; Ritual, Leslie Bergson; Social Action, Ron Lezell; Women's Chavurah, Chair shared by committee.

Office Manager: Susan Greenspan (Office is open Wednesday and Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. At other times, please leave a phone message.) **Emergency Number:** At other times the Congregation can be contacted in an emergency situation by calling 864-0475 between 7:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m.